

Israel to drill for oil on Golan

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's national oil company said Wednesday it intends to raise \$12 million to drill for oil on the Golan Heights, seized by Israel from Syria in 1967 and now at the center of their peace talks. "We have some prospect at what we call Zavitan on the Golan. In the oil business when you have money, you drill it," a spokesman for the state-owned company told Reuters. "The \$12 million will be for exploration, studies and drilling," he said. The company spokesman said a limited partnership was being set up to raise the funds. The spot marked for exploration is near the Golan's Zavitan stream, a noted tourist attraction. "This is a process which started more than two years ago... these things culminate in a prospect... and right now we are in the last stages," he said. Company Secretary Ami Ben-Bassat told Israel Radio Tuesday that policies had no bearing on the move: "We are relating to the Golan Heights only with professional or geological eyes." Israel's Ma'ariv newspaper said officials suggested the drilling following recent discovery of commercial quantities of oil in Syria. At slow-moving 21-month-old peace talks, Syria has demanded return of the entire plateau, but Israel will only detail plans for withdrawal if Syria agrees to full diplomatic and trade ties.

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U.S., Britain and France meet on Libya

LONDON (AP) — American, British and French officials met Tuesday to discuss tightening sanctions against Libya for refusing to hand over two men suspected of blowing up U.S. and French jumbo jets in the 1980s. The meeting was confined to civil servants and no statement was expected, a Foreign Office spokeswoman said. The meeting centred on recommendations for new sanctions to when the present United Nations measures imposed a year ago are reviewed in mid-August, she added. The U.N. Security Council last year ordered an embargo on military exports and air travel to try to force Libya to hand over the suspects in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988. Libya is also suspected of involvement in the bombing of a French Uta airliner over Niger in September 1989 and the world body is trying to get Libya to cooperate in investigations.

Palestinians prefer confederation to end stalemate, Ashrawi says

PLO willing to consider 'Gaza first' with Jericho
Christopher dampens breakthrough hope, continues mission

Combined agency dispatches



U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (right) and Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini shake hands at the beginning of the meeting between Mr. Christopher and members of the Palestinian peace talks delegation in East Jerusalem Tuesday (AFP photo)

between Mr. Christopher and members of the Palestinian peace talks delegation in East Jerusalem Tuesday (AFP photo)

peace," Mr. Christopher said.

He saw fresh hope for the peace negotiations in the cease-fire he brokered between Israel, Lebanon and Syria on Saturday.

"The fighting in Lebanon last week is a disturbing reminder of how urgent our task is and how real are the enemies of peace," Mr. Christopher said after meeting Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"But it's also an indication of

(Continued on page 10)

Jordan continues to suffer under illogical pressure — Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan continues to suffer under international pressure despite its contribution to the Middle East peace process and its evenhanded policies. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday.

"The pressure on Jordan today, with the continued sanctions as recorded by the U.N., (means) we are talking about 100s of 100,000s of dollars every month," the Crown Prince said in an interview with Spanish television.

"We feel that these pressures are illogical, and if the intention is political then the international community should consider incentive rather than pressure for a country that has done so much for peace," he said.

The Crown Prince was referring to the direct and indirect impact on the Jordanian economy of the continuing sanctions against Iraq. The Kingdom has lost its largest trading partner, Iraq, and is also suffering from the overzealous inspection of Aqaba-bound vessels by the enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq.

The Crown Prince said decision-making in Jordan would have greater participation with the election of a new Parliament later this year.

The stability of Jordan will be maintained "through pluralism, through greater participation in local government, participation in the accountability of both Parliament and its elected members by the constituents ...," he said.

He expressed hope that the election campaign would lead to "a greater focus on public issues, as opposed to continued focus on private issues and individual claims and requests by different groupings within the country."

"We believe that this election will bring about a greater participation across the length and breadth of this small country. There is a lot of excitement and a lot of optimism."

Following are some of the questions and answers from the interview:

QUESTION: I want to ask you about the role of Jordan in the peace process. Jordan is the Arab country that reached more progress in this process. How can this help in taking off the Palestinian blockade in the peace process? Is it possible that confederation would make the process advance?

ANSWER: May I make it very clear that the negotiating process is one (where) the Palestinians (are) negotiating with the Israelis. As far as the relationship, of course, of Jordan, the role of Jordan, is concerned, we stand ready to do (everything) we can to support the Palestinian negotiating position. For this reason, the joint committee was formed to increase coordination.

However, when it comes to the subject of final status, it must be very clear that the issue of con-

federation depends on the will of the people — the Palestinian people and Jordanian people — and can only be realized in a situation of freedom and in the exercise of their full right of self-determination.

Q: How is the idea of confederation? How is it in general the confederation between Jordan and Palestine?

As I said I think that the movement in the peace process is essential to any discussion about future status. I don't think that movement comes from Jordanian generosity. On the contrary, I think that Jordan has been conspicuous in its contribution — both the Jordanian-Palestinian umbrella and the attendance in both the multilateral and bilateral talks.

To enhance our contribution, we have formed once again a Jordanian-Palestinian coordinating committee. The question of confederation on the other hand is a question, an issue to be resolved after the final status is achieved of independence and indeed sovereignty for the Palestinians on their own soil in what is today occupied Palestine.

When that is achieved, the modality of self-determination will lead to full and free choice as to the structure of federation or confederation or future status ideas. These have been floated in the past in various forms, but I think it very premature to discuss it at this moment.

On Jordan's economy, the Crown Prince said:

"We have a good news that the national economy is achieving a growth of six per cent. The bad news is that, with the heavy human influx of refugees and migrants, it is very difficult to talk about maintaining per capita

(Continued on page 3)

Draft legislation to replace Election Law reportedly ready for consideration

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government Tuesday appeared prepared to present His Majesty King Hussein with a draft legislation that would replace the country's current Election Law; but it was not immediately known whether the King was ready yet to act on the government's recommendation, according to highly-placed sources.

Official government spokesmen declined comment on the report, saying only that such a draft legislation, if it actually existed, was not submitted to the full Cabinet for debate and approval.

The sources said that according to information available to them the draft legislation proposes the introduction of a one-person-one-vote formula even in constituencies with reserved seats for minorities.

They said the draft document, which could replace the Election Law as a temporary

legislation if endorsed by the King, did not propose the redrawing of voting districts.

Under the current bloc-voting system, voters have as many votes as the number of parliamentary seats assigned for their constituencies. Redrawing the voting precincts, which do not ensure equal parliamentary representation for equal number of voters, is believed to be the most complex process that the government would have had to tackle had it decided to address it in the reported new legislation.

The proposed changes are expected to work against large and well-organized groups which benefitted the most from the voters' right to vote for more than one candidate in the 1989 elections.

Well-informed political observers also pointed to the possibility of differences on the issue within the movement.

That the Brotherhood's warning was made in a statement issued by the movement's

information department rather than the office of the Brotherhood parliamentary bloc or the Islamic Action Front (IAF) is an indication that there are differences on the line of action within the movement, one observer told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Stakeholders expressing the Brotherhood's political views were mainly made by the Brotherhood's deputies' office or the IAF, under whose umbrella the movement's candidates would contest the next parliamentary elections around November.

The government dismissed the threat by saying "it will not be pushed around" by the Islamists or any other group in the 1989 elections.

Well-informed political observers also pointed to the possibility of differences on the issue within the movement.

King Hussein and Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al Majali have said that changes to

(Continued on page 10)

Several earthquakes rock Middle East

AMMAN (J.T.) — A series of moderate earthquakes shook Jordan and northern Lebanon Tuesday, with the strongest registering 5.7 on the Richter scale, officials said. Quake reports also came from Egypt and Israel.

No injuries or damage were reported.

The Royal Scientific Society's (RSS) Building Research Centre recorded several medium-intensity tremors in the southwestern area of the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea, according to the centre's director Faisal Sayyah.

Dr. Sayyah said 10 tremors were registered between 13:43 (12:43 GMT) and 19:30 (16:30 GMT).

The strongest was the first which measured 5.5 on the Richter scale, he said. He said the epicentre of the quake was located in an area 620 kilometres south of the RSS in Amman. The rest of the tremors, he said, measured between 4.55 and 5.1 on the Richter scale, and occurred consecutively with a time span of 8-10 minutes between them.

The NRA report coincided with reports of quakes in Egypt, Israel and Lebanon.

Two earthquakes shook parts of Egypt, causing no damage but raising nerves in Cairo where a strong earthquake caused widespread death and damage less than a year ago.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Islamic

Palestinians stage strike to protest Lebanon assault

Combined agency dispatches

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip — Palestinians went on strike in Gaza City and the occupied West Bank towns of Ramallah and Nablus Tuesday over Israel's seven-day assault on guerrillas in Lebanon, correspondents said.

A quake of magnitude 3.5 can cause slight damage.

An earthquake of magnitude 5 can cause considerable damage in populated areas near the epicentre. A magnitude 6 cause severe damage.

The strike was called by 10 Damascus-based Palestinian groups who oppose the Middle East peace process to coincide with the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Shops and businesses closed in the three cities and traffic kept off the roads, but Palestinian labourers still travelled into Israel, correspondents said. Occupied Jerusalem and other centres were not affected.

The 10 groups charged that the "barbaric aggression" which left more than 145 Lebanese dead and 450 wounded last week, took place with "American cover."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Islamic

Resistance Movement Hamas were among the groups.

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded an Islamic Jihad member and his brother in Gaza on Tuesday, Palestinian witnesses said.

Troops opened fire on 21-year-old Ashraf Assidi, who is wanted for several anti-Israeli attacks, and his brother Munir in a market at Rafah in the south of the strip.

Both were hit in the legs but managed to get away. The army later arrested Munir in a local hospital.

Meanwhile three young Palestinians attacked an Israeli settler with axes and knives at Deir Al Balah, but the man escaped with light wounds, military sources said.

The army said a group of

Arabs, one armed with an axe, attacked the man while he drove a tractor near Deir Al Balah town. The man fled to a Jewish settlement where he received first aid. The army was searching for the attackers.

(Continued on page 5)

Beirut prepares to send army to South Lebanon

Combined agency dispatches

BEIRUT — Officials Tuesday discussed how the Lebanese army could help United Nations peacekeepers control guerrillas and possibly take over some U.N.-policed villages in South Lebanon, a government said.

The discussions followed a week-long Israeli offensive in South Lebanon that was intended to root out guerrillas who were staging attacks on Israeli targets.

The violence, which forced half a million Lebanese to flee their homes in the south, was ended by a U.S.-brokered ceasefire Saturday.

Norwegian Major-General Trond Furuhovde, commander of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, (UNIFIL), conferred Tuesday with Foreign Minister Faris Bouez and army commander Gen. Emile Lahoud.

Mr. Bouez also met with U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and told reporters the United Nations did not object to deployment of Lebanese troops in U.N.-policed areas and the United States was "doubtless willing to help bring this about."

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has said U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali had approved the deployment of Lebanese troops in the area of UNIFIL operations.

Gen. Furuhovde offered Mr. Bouez full cooperation over the deployment plan.

Gen. Furuhovde swapped ideas with Gen. Lahoud on how to deploy the army in 70 villages inside the U.N.-policed zone bordering Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the south.

Official sources said Mr. Bouez told Gen. Furuhovde Lebanon wanted the 5,400-strong UNIFIL to maintain the level of its presence in the battered villages and work side by side with the Lebanese troops.

It was unclear when the deployment would take place.

Gen. Furuhovde appealed to civilians, especially children, to keep away from the many unexploded Israeli shells and rockets littering the area and to call in U.N. troops to defuse them.

President Elias Hrawi Monday ordered troops to secure villages in the U.N. zone. But the govern-



A woman hugs her child as she checks the debris of her houses in the village of Ain Qana in South Lebanon Tuesday as a result of last week's bombardment carried out by Israeli forces (AFP photo)

ment denied the step was at the expense of pro-Iranian Hizbollah members.

Israel halted its seven-day pounding of the south on Saturday under a ceasefire which included "understandings" that Hizbollah would stop rocket attacks on northern Israel.

The army on Tuesday tightened its grip on areas of the south where they already had a presence north of the U.N.-held strip.

Military sources said Lebanese troops at checkpoints in the

(Continued on page 10)

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Amman informs with deepest regret and profound grief that

His Majesty King Baudouin I, King of the Belgians, died on Saturday 31st, July 1993 at Montril (Spain).

A register of condolences will be opened at the ambassador's residence Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th, and Friday 6th. August 1993 between 2 and 4 p.m.

Relief agency appeals for aid to Somalia, says focus is on controlling diseases

Combined agency dispatches

NAIROBI — The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Tuesday appealed for \$23 million to establish 50 health clinics in Somalia which would care for more than 500,000 people.

The money also would be used to strengthen the Somali Red Crescent, a federation member, which has continued to work throughout Somalia's vicious civil war and crushing famine. Ibrahim Osman, head of the federation's Geneva-based Africa Department, said at a news conference.

Somalia's infrastructures collapsed in the bloody clan warfare that erupted following the January 1991 ouster of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre.

International agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Medicins Sans Frontieres, Care and Irish Concern provided emergency health services and feeding during the fighting and the famine that killed as many as 350,000 people before being brought under control early this year.

Mr. Osman said 32 expatriate staff will help to establish 50 health clinics around Belet Huen, Garo, Hargeisa and Kismayo that would care for more than 500,000 people, one-twelfth of the country's estimated population. The programme would not immediately include Mogadishu because of security problems, he said.

Mr. Osman said large scale provision of free food was no longer needed because mass starvation had been brought under control.

The price of basic foodstuffs over much of the country currently matched or was lower than local production costs, to the detriment of the farmers and the agricultural labour force, according to the Red Cross.

Relief efforts now should focus on eradicating waterborne diseases, measles, tuberculosis and malaria which had become the main causes of death in Somalia.

Mr. Osman added.

Five of the federation's expatriate delegation evacuated Mogadishu on June 8 following an outbreak of fighting between United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) soldiers and militiamen loyal to Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed.

But "more than 20 local staff and some 200 volunteers remained."

German troops fly in

A total of 260 German soldiers flew in to Mogadishu Tuesday as part of reinforcements for U.N. forces deployed in Somalia.

Sixty of them flew in directly to Belet Huen, in northwestern Somalia, where 850 other German soldiers are already deployed in the region bordering Ethiopia.

The last U.N. air raid on July 12 provoked an outcry after the International Committee of the Red Cross said 54 people died in the missile and cannon bombardment. Four foreign journalists covering the scene were murdered by mob.

Dr. Abdikasim, a respected political moderate, said he aimed to bring together Gen. Aideed's aides and U.N. officials led by special representative Jonathan Howe in broad-based peace talks.

"It is not the U.N. mandate to solve the problem by force, but peaceful means are still available," he said.

Admiral Howe has ordered Gen. Aideed's arrest, put a \$25,000 reward on his head and said he will not meet with his former Italian-trained general.

Dr. Abdikasim said Gen. Aideed loyalists in the Habib Gedir clan recently elected 25 elders to participate in new negotiations with other factions and the United Nations.

And to break the current deadlock, it was not essential for Adm. Howe and Gen. Aideed to meet, he said.

U.N. forces accuse Gen. Aideed of ordering the June 5 slaying of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers and blame his gunmen for killing 11 other peacekeepers and wounding 15, including 17 Americans, since then.

Earlier, Italian soldiers bowed their heads at a makeshift chapel behind heavy fortifications as their commander, General Bruno Loli, recited a prayer honouring three Italian paratroopers killed July 2.

Exactly a month after combat that left another 30 Italian sol-

diers wounded, about 200 survivors of the fighting sang Roman Catholic hymns and chanted their regimental motto.

The mass came as an unusual calm settled over this war-ravaged seaside capital.

Several small-scale sniping attacks since Friday caused no U.N. casualties, but opponents of U.N. intervention said the 27-nation coalition was using the lull to plan air raids on bases of fighters loyal to Gen. Aideed.

U.N. military officials, however, have discounted assertions by Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance that five targets have been pinpointed in populous south Mogadishu for future attacks.

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A total of 1,700 German troops are to be deployed in Belet Huen by the end of August.

Italians hold requiem

Italian troops incurred their dead at a requiem mass Monday, and a Somali mediator called for negotiations to end an uneasy stand-off between U.N. forces and attackers.

Dr. Abdikasim Salad Hassan, a former interior minister, said urgent talks were needed to halt hostilities that in recent weeks cost the lives of 35 heavily armed peacekeepers and "no less than 500 Somalis."

"A stalemate has been reached. To diffuse the situation, we must have this dialogue, tanks and helicopters aren't the solution," he said.

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Exactly a month after combat that left another 30 Italian sol-



WHAT WAS A HOME: Two Lebanese children near the rubble of their house which was bombed from the town of Nabatiyah carrying toys stand by jets in last week's Israeli attacks (AFP photo)

Iraq denies Aziz to visit Iran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has denied an Iranian newspaper report that Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz would visit Iran for talks on restoring ties between the two countries.

He had a meeting with Mr. Ibrahim last week before his departure for Tehran.

Iran warns of 'tragedy'

Iran, warning of a "human tragedy," appealed to international organisations Monday to help refugees fleeing to Iran from southern Iraqi marshes.

The Interior Ministry said 4,000 Iraqis, their livelihood threatened by the Baghdad government's draining of the marshes, had crossed into Iran's Khuzestan province and another 40,000 might be displaced if the pressures continued.

"They face severe problems of food and hygiene and their numbers are increasing by the day. A sad human tragedy looms if international organisations do not rush to help them," said the spokesman.

The ministry said it had sent food and basic supplies to the refugees, including a shipment arranged with the help of the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees last week.

Risalat, quoting informed sources, said the number two of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Ezzat Ibrahim, had expressed his government's readiness last week for bilateral talks with Iran.

In the past month, however, American former boxing champion Mohammad Ali has been

involved in shuttle diplomacy between the two countries to help resolve the issue.

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used as a refuge by army deserters and opponents of President Saddam Hussein's government.

Several hundred thousand Iraqi Shi'ites fled to Iran two years ago after the Iraqi army crushed a post-Gulf war rebellion in southern Iraq, but most have returned home since.

INC wants sanctions

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), an opposition movement, said Monday that the international embargo against Iraq should be maintained.

After three days of meetings in Salaheddin, in Iraqi Kurdistan, the INC leadership called on the international community, notably the West, to "maintain the embargo against Iraq, but to intensify the efforts of implementing all U.N. resolutions concerning humanitarian aid and by doing this lifting the embargo on the Kurdish governed region."

The London-based movement says it groups all the Iraqi opposition factions.

"We are well aware that Iraq is an important country for the West and we see the possibility that Western states will normalise their relations," if the current situation persists, said Izzed Al Yan, the INC's liaison to international organisations.

"So we launched an appeal to all other states to support any effort to change the government rather than normalise their relations with Saddam Hussein," he added.

The vast marshes which extend to the Iranian border are inhabited by Shi'ite Muslims and have

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptians capture wanted militant

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian civilians in a Cairo slum captured a militant wanted for ambushing an army general's car but not before he shot one person dead and injured three others, police sources said. They said the militant, Mustafa Al Awani, and another man were asking people about an address in the district of Sharqya when someone noticed a gun hidden in his clothing. The terrorist tried to grab the two militants. Awani opened fire, killing a 28-year-old man and injuring three other people, before he was overpowered and handed to police. The second man escaped. A group of five or six militants ambushed the general's car on the eastern outskirts of Cairo last month in revenge for the death of 14 militants hanged after being found guilty of attacks on police and foreign tourists and plotting to overthrow the government. Two of the attackers were captured and a third shot dead. The others escaped.

750,000 Afghans return home from Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Some 750,000 Afghans out of nearly three million who fled to Iran during the Afghan civil war have returned home since last year, the Iranian Interior Ministry said Monday. A ministry statement quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency said 164,000 of the refugees had received \$25 in cash and 50 kilogrammes of wheat from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) before leaving Iran. The government, with the help of UNHCR and other international agencies, provided free transportation for the refugees and their belongings to six border crossings, it added.

Peres to make official visit to Oslo

OSLO (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will make a two-day official visit to Norway Aug. 19-20 to meet with several top Norwegian officials, the foreign ministry announced Monday. Peres is expected to hold talks with his Norwegian counterpart Johan Joergen Holst, Prime Minister Gro Brundtland and King Harald. He will also meet Speaker of Parliament Jo Beate, members of the parliamentary foreign affairs commission and of Oslo's Jewish community. The visit is part of a tour of Nordic countries, which also includes a visit to Stockholm and Reykjavik.

Morocco, South Korea to abolish visas

RABAT (R) — Morocco and South Korea signed an agreement Monday to abolish visa requirements for nationals of both countries. "The agreement is designed to facilitate the travel and transit of the citizens of both countries," Morocco's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The measure comes into force on Sept. 1. On Saturday, King Hassan decorated Chong Kun Goo, vice-chairman of Korean Airlines (KAL), for services rendered as honorary consul of Morocco in Seoul for 17 years.

Ben Ali reshuffles party leadership

TUNIS (R) — President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali reshuffled the leadership of Tunisia's ruling party Monday, naming five new members of the political bureau including Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia. The 13-strong political bureau of the Rassemblement Constitutionnel Democratique (Democratic Constitutional Rally) was named after the close Sunday of the party congress which reelected Mr. Ben Ali as its chairman. The five new members also include Justice Minister Sadok Chaabane, senior Ben Ali adviser Salah Baccari, RCD Under-Secretary General Hatem Ben Othman and Mrs. Nezha Zarrouk, who is responsible for women's affairs in the party. The senior leaders of political bureau remain unchanged with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui as vice-president.

Ghali offers compromise for Sahara

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has proposed a compromise to resolve problems on a vote for self-determination for the Western Sahara. Morocco and the Polisario Front have disagreed over who should qualify to vote in the referendum to end 18 years of fighting and determine whether Western Sahara becomes independent or part of Morocco. Morocco had finally agreed to Dr. Ghali's compromise proposal after initially expressing reservations, and it was now urgent to persuade Polisario to accept it, the secretary-general said in a report Monday to the Security Council.

Algeria suspends daily newspaper

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian authorities have suspended publication of the daily Al Djazair Al Youm (Algeria Today), accusing it of undermining "public order, public security and the superior interests of the country." The communications ministry said in a statement it also reserved the right to take legal action against the Arabic-language newspaper's directors. The statement gave no indication of what report had provoked the action. Al Djazair Al Youm was suspended twice last year, notably for publishing articles the government said aimed to discredit the symbols of the state and give a voice to those trying to destabilise the country.

British brothers in adventure in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Two British teenagers whose rented speedboat broke down off Cyprus' southern coast swam to safety but ended up on different sides of the divided island's green line. Police said Tuesday brothers Benjamin, 18 and Jonathan Seddon, 15, had reported missing Monday when they failed to return to the coastal resort of Protaras, a few kilometres from the Turkish-held part of Famagusta. "Jonathan swam to shore for help but ended up in the Turkish-held north where he was arrested. He said his brother was still in the boat," a police spokesman said. U.N. troops handed Jonathan over to British military base police early Tuesday, he added. "Benjamin also swam out to shore and was found sometime before midnight. He said that he had been obliged to abandon the boat," police said.

Rabin to make unprecedented China trip

TEL AVIV (R) — Yitzhak Rabin will in October become Israel's first prime minister to visit Peking since the forging of Israeli-Chinese diplomatic ties in January 1992, a senior official said Tuesday. "This could mark a turning point in enhancing relations and cooperation between the two countries," the official said.

Iran MP lambasted for comments on government

TEHRAN (R) — Members of parliament (MPs) are heaping abuse on a maverick deputy for saying, according to a press report, that Iran's system of religious government was at odds with the power and independence of the legislature.

In an unruly session in the Majlis (parliament) Sunday, deputies shouted "liar" when a note from Qassem Sholeh-Saadi was read out attempting to explain what he had said.

One accused him of favouring Western parliamentarianism over Iran's "Velayat-e faqih" system which gives supreme power to a religious leader.

"We will beat him up if he does not take it back," an unnamed deputy said, according to the newspaper Hamsahri. "He does not belong to the Majlis," said another.

Mr. Sholeh-Saadi, a 39-year-old lawyer, has been identified with the conservatives in the five years he has represented the southern city of Shiraz in last summer's national elections.

Worshippers called for his sacking from the Majlis, it said. Mr. Sholeh-Saadi said in a note read at the Majlis that he would save Salam for the report and that he meant to say "his relationship to the leader was based on love, not fear," Hamsahri said.

But it drew more shouts of "liar" from the floor, it added.

Netanyahu suffers setback

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu suffered his first political setback Monday when the brother of his arch rival won the leadership of the Likud Party's central committee.

Many of our politicians hold views which they do not dare express because they cannot foresee the consequences."

The newspaper quoted Mr. Sholeh-Saadi as saying he recalled how eight Majlis deputies "had their political life ruined for just putting a question to the foreign minister."

The reference is to a case in 1986. The eight withdrew their question about Iran's secret arm-to-hostages deal with the United States after the late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini rebuked them for putting it forward.

The outcry over Mr. Sholeh-Saadi's comments apparently began at Friday prayers in Shiraz, when, according to the newspaper Yedioth Aharonot, a prayer leader Mohammad Haeri Shirazi said they struck at the root of Iran's Islamic government.

Netanyahu's comments were taken as a back seat since his loss to Mr. Netanyahu for chairman of the party. His brother's victory could inspire Levy to reassess his influence in the party.

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U.N. monitors rocket test at Iraqi site

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— U.N. inspectors monitored Iraq's first rocket test Monday since a compromise was reached in July allowing U.N. installation of surveillance cameras at two Iraqi missile test sites, a U.N. spokesman said.

Inspectors of the U.N. special commission on Iraqi disarmament photographed the test stand set-up at the Rafah test site prior to the firing of the rocket, said the spokesman released at U.N. headquarters in New York.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Tuesday receives a donation to the Young Women's Muslim Association from delegates of the U.S.-based voluntary organisation called Medicine for Peace (photo by Boghos)

Visiting U.S. medical group makes donation to YWMA

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Tuesday met with members of a delegation from Medicine for Peace. Mary Silverman and Kathleen Viola presented the Princess in her capacity as chairman of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA), with a cash contribution on behalf of the Fellowship for Reconciliation for the Association to continue with its various projects.

This is one of many contributions that the fellowship has made to the association over the last few years.

Since the Gulf war ceasefire, Medicine for Peace, a voluntary medical organisation based in the U.S., has sent eight separate delegations to Iraq.

While there, Medicine for Peace has set up health clinics and taken 13 children to the U.S. for surgical treatment not available in Iraq because of the sanctions imposed by the U.N.

Ms. Silverman and Ms. Viola were in Amman on their way back from Iraq where they had returned an Iraqi child and her mother to their family following successful cardiac surgery in the U.S.

They were also involved in the running of health clinics and in identifying children to take to the U.S. for treatment.

The delegation will return in October with the director of Medicine for Peace, Michael Viola and other physicians and health workers.

They will conduct a study of health conditions in Schomali and poor sections of Baghdad to determine the effects of the sanctions on the health of children.

The team will also take 5 children back to the U.S. for surgery.

Princess Sumaya stresses importance of modern technology to new graduates

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan Tuesday attended the graduation ceremony of the 15th class of students from the Princess Sumaya College for Informatics, which is affiliated to the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Princess Sumaya delivered an address at the ceremony, highlighting the importance of acquiring knowledge in modern technology, namely in the computer-related areas.

She said the college has worked on raising the educational level of its students, as well as encouraging their creative thinking and scientific research.

She pointed out that there was a tangible increase in the number of local companies using computer technology in their work, adding that this has made Jordan a distinguished training centre in serving the Arab region in this field.

Congratulating the graduates and wishing them good luck in their future endeavours, Princess Sumaya also commended efforts extended by the RSS president and personnel in educational, scientific and research spheres.

RSS President Hani Mulki also delivered an address welcoming



Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan Tuesday awards certificates to the 15th class of students at a graduation ceremony at the Princess Sumaya College of Informatics (Petra photo)

the Princess and congratulating the graduates, saying that the 15th class raises the number of graduates from the college to 640 individuals specialising in computer technology.

All the college graduates, Dr. Mulki said, are now working in productive sectors in Jordan and other Arab countries.

The RSS president reviewed the establishment of the society and its goals which serve the development process in Jordan. The Princess Sumaya College

was established in 1977 to meet the Kingdom's needs in certain professions and to meet the society's development needs, he said.

Dr. Mulki announced that a new electronic engineering college will be established within the society, offering its students a bachelor degree after a five-year study period.

At the end of the ceremony Princess Sumaya distributed certificates to the graduates, who include students from 9 Arab countries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan InterContinental.

* Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank Gallery.

FILM

* Feature film entitled "The Pink Panther" at the British Council at 7 p.m.

JERUSALEM FESTIVAL

* Exhibition of paintings, posters, Palestinian costumes, books and other items on the holy city of Jerusalem at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

* Seminar entitled "Arab Women — Role and Challenges" at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

Jordan continues to suffer under illogical pressure*

(Continued from page 1)

middle class. But you are quite right. I referred earlier to the politics and economics of despair that when people speak of extremism, it is built on non-achievement economically. We believe that it is not welfare programmes that are going to rescue this situation and change it, whether it is unemployment or poverty, but a full activation of the economy. We believe that geographically Jordan is suited — we do have homeworks of improving legislation and regulations and opening to the world — (to) become an investment centre, particularly in new areas, but the fact is that Jordan is still blockaded. Our exports in phosphates, for example, have almost halved, and indeed our exports in fruits and vegetables are made impossible by the continuous blockade and the barriers that exist between us and the Gulf states.

Q: How do you see this experience?

A: We are not in the business of presenting a recipe for others. We have a highly intelligent, often conservative, electorate, and I think there has to be a distinction between politicisation of platforms, whether religious or ideological. The Jordanian people have generally been and will continue to be a centrist people.

Q: Does the development of the country make differences of class? I mean for the middle and high class?

A: The returns of course include entrepreneurs from the

Gulf states that Jordan took a position that they saw (as) supportive of Iraq. We have made it very clear that we are supportive in an inter-Arab solution and that we have had and will continue to have a deep concern for the welfare of the people of Iraq. After all one million children under the age of five may die during the next six months due to the lack of medicines or unclear water or lack of energy. Our hope is that the overwhelming problem, the common denominator between us all — extremism, poverty, (and) instability in the Middle East region — will sooner rather than later bring us into dialogue once again with the Arab countries.

Q: Jordan is the only Arab country which integrated the extremist religious party inside parliament. How do you see this experience?

A: We are not in the business of presenting a recipe for others. We have a highly intelligent, often conservative, electorate, and I think there has to be a distinction between politicisation of platforms, whether religious or ideological. The Jordanian people have generally been and will continue to be a centrist people.

On the question of the plight of Muslims in Europe in general, again there is deep concern and a feeling that Spain can act as a bridge in articulating the concerns of Arab and Muslim countries.

Majali asks cabinet to follow-up on outcome of King's trip abroad

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Tuesday briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of His Majesty King Hussein's latest tour abroad and his talks with the leaders of the United Kingdom, France and Turkey, requesting that the government follow up on the results of the trip.

Dr. Majali said that King Hussein had discussed with the leaders of the three countries several political and economic issues and reviewed developments in Jordan's relations with the three nations.

Furthermore, the King's discussions covered the peace process, the latest events in Lebanon, the Jordanian democratic process and Jordan's participation in the U.N. Peace-keeping forces now posted in Bosnia, Angola, Cambodia and Somalia.

The Prime Minister requested that the Council of Ministers follow up on the results of the King's visit, noting that Jordan is deeply satisfied with the revival of the strong, friendly relations with Turkey, thanks to the King's efforts.

In an airport statement upon his return to Amman Monday, King Hussein said that his visit to Turkey was good and that it was based on the close relations between the Kingdom and the Mediterranean state.

It was a good chance to enhance bilateral relations and open new scopes of cooperation with Ankara, the King said.

In his briefing to the Cabinet, Dr. Majali said officials and the media in France, Britain and Turkey had given prominence to His Majesty's visit and the Jordanian role in helping to bring about stability to the region and to help keep world peace.

He said the leaders of the three countries have praised Jordan's efforts towards democracy and political pluralism, serving, he said, as a successful example in the Arab World.

New office processes applications to export to Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Applications to export goods to Iraq are being processed at an office at the Customs Department in Amman, for approval by the United Nations Security Council's sanctions committee, according to an announcement by the Finance Ministry Tuesday.

A source at the Finance Ministry, which is in charge of the customs department, said the sanctions committee approves applications depending on the nature of the goods and whether there is a need for them in Iraq.

That means some goods which may have been approved for export earlier may not be allowed later. Neither the Ministry of Finance nor the customs department have the power to change the committee's decision.

The source said no fees are levied on the applications whether they are approved or not adding that there was no discrimination between one person or another or one application or another.

Islamic umbrella group calls for freezing all debate on confederation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An umbrella Islamic organisation Tuesday called on Jordanian and Palestinians to freeze all debate on confederation between them until an independent Palestinian state is created.

"Any discussion of confederation at this stage is like trying to build a ceiling without walls or like bargaining over the skin of a bear before the animal is hunted," said a statement issued by the Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies in Jordan.

The statement said that the definition of confederation means relations between two independent, sovereign states "exercising their total freedom in their internal and external affairs."

"There cannot be a confederation between an independent, sovereign state (Jordan) and a land under occupation

planted with Israeli settlements beyond the control of the (proposed) Palestinian self-rule" authorities, it said.

In the present framework of Palestinian self-rule proposals for the five-year interim period in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Palestinian authority will be "nothing more than a municipal council which has no control over its defence and foreign affairs," said the statement.

The council, an umbrella organisation for over 110 Islamic societies, clubs and educational centres in Jordan, accused Israel and the U.S. of trying to raise the issue of confederation and "to impose it on Jordan in a bid to normalise (the Kingdom's) ties (with the Jewish state)..."

It criticised the ongoing debate in the media over the confederation idea and said some of the comments made by senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, "if they are true, reveal

behind-the-scenes dealings unknown to the people and parliament of Jordan and which have mysterious implications for the future of Jordan..."

It asked: "Is there a ready-made solution waiting to be imposed on Jordan when the time is ripe? Do the present negotiations aim at providing a cover and extracting further concessions and planting despair and frustrations in the hearts of the Arabs and Palestinians and compelling them to accept any solution as is being done to the people of Bosnia Herzegovina?"

Any confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state should be the natural choice of the Jordanians and Palestinians expressed in a plebiscite, it added.

The Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies does not include political groupings, but includes anti-peace talk activists from political parties in their individual capacities.

However, sources say, unlike some of the groups which totally oppose any dealings with Israel, the council favours the creation of an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 geography of the area.

The confederation idea reemerged after the PLO saw it as a means to break the logjam in the 21-month-old Middle East peace negotiations.

Jordan and the PLO, in line with an earlier agreement that the two banks of the River Jordan will have confederal status in a post-peace process era, have formed joint committees to study the various aspects of a confederation.

But Jordan has repeatedly affirmed that any serious consideration of the idea should be based on the realisation that the implementation of the proposal could come only after the rights of the Palestinian people have been fully restored.

Furthermore, the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands will be in the steering committee to follow-up on ESCWA project entitled: "Assessment of Water Resources Using Remote-Sensing Techniques in the ESCWA Region" for the production of hydrological and hydrogeological maps.

The Royal Geographic Centre is expected to assist ESCWA and ACSAD in this project.

The agreement was signed by ESCWA Executive Secretary Subah Bakrji and ACSAD Director General Mohammad Al Khes.

Jordan, Syria to explore sub-regional aquifer

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement signed in Damascus Sunday for cooperation in the exploration and drilling into the basaltic sub-regional aquifer shared between Jordan and Syria.

The agreement, signed by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Arab Centre for Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), will allow for the investigation of the aquifer located in the volcanic border area between the two countries, where experts believe that underground water resources could prove to be abundant.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Alia to open art exhibit

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — More than two weeks after a consignment of cheese worth almost JD 500,000 arrived at the port of Aqaba, the argument between the custom authorities and the merchants over its legality rages on.

The shipment was declared unfit for human consumption by the Ministry of Health after a routine check revealed that temperatures inside the non-refrigerated containers had reached over 30 degrees centigrade.

Despite emphatic denials from the merchants, and a recent threat of court action, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas was quoted in Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying, "the import regulation has not changed and we must stick to it. They are breaking a basic law of health."

The regulation, drafted by the Scientific Committee on Food (SCF), is widely understood by merchants.

The committee decided in the 1980's to allow cheese to be imported if its storage conditions complied with that regulation.

There is, thus, no specific

Officials, traders fail to agree on safety of cheese consignment

temperature level laid down by the ministry.

Following this procedure, manufacturers were contacted by officials for their advice on the current shipment and agreed that the cheese had been exposed to hazardous high temperatures.

Having complained that the authorities should measure the temperature of the cheese and not the container, the merchants went on to demand that future testing should take place in Amman where the air is cooler.

Dr. Malhas maintained that "it doesn't matter if it is Amman or Aqaba, if the temperature is too high, it is against the law."

The problem is that at the centigrade levels measured in Aqaba, it is almost certain that bacteria will grow rapidly, rendering the cheese contaminated, even if at later stages the level drops to within the recommendations, officials say.

Subsequent tests will not necessarily register the existence of the bacteria.

The committee decided in the 1980's to allow cheese to be imported if its storage conditions complied with that regulation.

There is, thus, no specific

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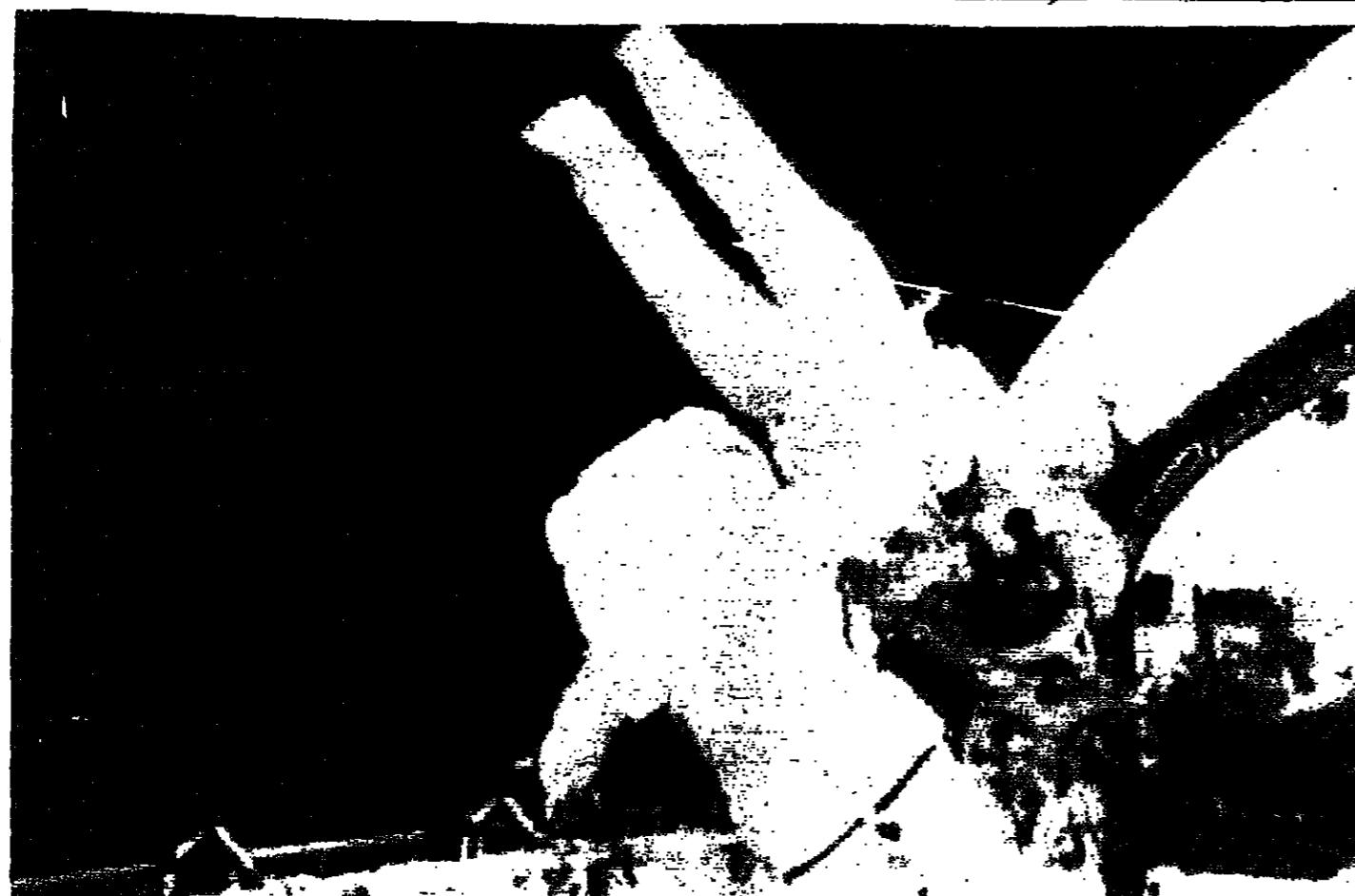
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Amman-Jordan

Details representative job.

All applications will be handled with strict confidentiality.



Risk and acts of courage, like this walk in space on Jan. 17, 1993, by astronaut Greg Harbaugh (left) who carries fellow Endeavour crewman Mario Runco, could, maybe, get the

excitement back in NASA's projects which seems to stir little interest since the end of the cold war (AFP photo)

With grandeur gone, NASA's friends have dwindled

By Harry F. Rosenthal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was 1969 and three men had just returned from the moon. They got parades and medals and a presidential dinner. Their burn-stained space capsule was hauled around to all 50 state capitals, escorted by highway patrolmen with the reverence and awe accorded to old glory herself. People lined up for hours just so they could say they had seen the thing.

It was history and triumph and the United States was No. 1. Fast-forward to 1993.

Apollo is history. Skylab is forgotten and the space shuttle has flown 57 times since 1981. No human has set foot on the moon since 1972.

With the tragic exception of Challenger, all launches and landings look the same — up and down, up and down — and network television long ago quit carrying them live. Ask the man on the street to name a current astronaut and get a blank stare.

For nine years, there's been a boring debate in Washington: Does the United States need a space station? Last month, in Congress, the naysayers came within one vote of killing the project.

Where have all of National Aeronautic Space Administration (NASA's) friends gone?

In the 1960s, NASA could do no wrong. It had the whole country in its corner and the goal was simple: beat the Soviets.

Nobody's head rolled when the early rockets blew up or when John Glenn failed 10 times to get off the ground before becoming the first American to orbit earth or when NASA spent \$26 billion to get 12 men onto the moon.

"NASA was a creature of the

cold war," said Don Fuqua, the former chairman of the House Space Committee and now president of the Aerospace Industries Association. "When the Berlin wall came down, there no longer was this enemy out there that we had to compete with."

The bleachers where the cheerleaders once sat now are filled with critics.

One of them, a congressman, told his colleagues recently that NASA had led them around by the nose for years and "bamboozled" Congress. Even NASA acknowledges it underestimated costs and overpromised results.

That was just one of the many confidence-eroding circumstances.

The Challenger disaster, which killed seven astronauts on the 25th shuttle flight, was "an accident rooted in history," according to investigators who concluded the agency had gotten sloppy.

The Hubble space telescope's inability to see to the edge of the universe as promised was due to carelessness. The \$1.4 billion Galileo space probe to Jupiter is handicapped because its main antenna is jammed.

As a candidate, Bill Clinton was a friend of the space station but as president he practiced "tough love" too, ordering NASA back to the drawing board.

Since 1984, when Ronald Reagan proposed it, the station's expected cost climbed from \$8 billion to \$31.3 billion by NASA's own estimate.

Even that, said the General Accounting Office, was low. The station would cost at least \$40 billion to build and more than \$100 billion to operate over its 30-year planned lifetime.

Mr. Clinton gave NASA administration Daniel Goldin new marching orders: cut the cost in half. Mr. Goldin had the station redesigned and downsized and Mr. Clinton adopted a version he said would save \$18 billion.

But that didn't stop the naysayers in Washington.

"The price tag is out of this world," said Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York. "One hundred billion dollars for a motel in space when we have an infant mortality rate in Harlem ... that rivals many Third World countries."

"NASA's problem is that for a long time they took their friends for granted," said Rep. Robert Walker, the Republican leader of the House Space Subcommittee.

On one house roll call, the station survived by a single vote, 216-215.

"They like space and they like the idea of space but are not

Earthquakes

(Continued from page 1)

The first temblor struck at 3:32 p.m. (12:32 GMT) and a second at 3:43 p.m. (12:43 GMT), according to Egypt's Helwan observatory. It measured the initial shock at 4.3 on the Richter scale and the second one at 5.2.

There were seven mild aftershocks, according to Adel Ezz, minister of scientific research.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said there were no reports of damage or injuries. Residents of Sharm Al Sheikh on the Red Sea and Assiut in southern Egypt also felt two shocks.

Israel Radio said the tremors were felt from Eilat in southern Israel to central areas. A first tremor originated in the Red Sea 130 kilometers (78 miles) south of Sharm Al Sheikh and registered 5 on the Richter scale, the radio said.

Other seismologists reported higher readings. The Uppsala University in Sweden said the quake registered 6.1 on the Richter scale, and the U.S. Geological Survey's earthquake information centre in Colorado said it was 6.0.

Rutger Wahlstrom, head of Uppsala University's seismological department, explained the differences in readings by saying "local Richter scales with small variations" are in use in different regions. He said Richter readings were often more accurate than the farther recorded from the earthquake's centre.

A series of mild earthquakes rattled north Lebanon Tuesday, with the strongest registering 4.6 on the Richter scale. The Lebanese meteorological agency said.

Protest Strike

(Continued from page 1)

Ten Palestinians were wounded Monday evening, including eight during a swoop by Israeli soldiers on a mosque in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli troops raided the Al Qassim mosque at Beit Lahiya following an attack on a car in which a member of the Israeli military administration was killed and six other Israelis wounded.

The mosque is a stronghold of the Islamic Jihad organisation which claimed responsibility for the attack.

"They like space and they like the idea of space but are not

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NHF projects expand grassroots participation in development

A cow-raising scheme

Quality of Project Director Issam Zawawi says a Village Development Council (VDC) and neighbourhood committees, supported by technical committees representing concerned institutions have been set up to tap local human and material resources and pool them towards the overall development of the community. One of the major activities sponsored by the project in Gneih has been a cow-raising scheme through which 10 local families have received one high-yield cow each from the NHF Project to raise and utilize their dairy products in enhancing their nutrition and/or obtaining additional income. Cows are distributed as loans to be paid back to the project in the form of newly-born heifers which will subsequently be handed over to other beneficiary families in what seems to be a "revolving fund" of cows.

For well over a year, this farming and cattle-raising village of Gneih has been a target of Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Quality of Life Project which seeks to induce socio-economic development in 12 disadvantaged Jordanian communities through reinforcing self-reliance and creating and expanding grassroots participation in an integrated and comprehensive manner. At this point of time, not only has this community, long shrouded in oblivion, started to move on the right track of socio-economic progress, but it has also begun to show convincing signs that this brand of development, preached and practised by NHF does work if initiated on scientific ground and in response to genuine local needs and priorities.

One of the beneficiaries of the cow-raising scheme in Gneih, Atef Ziyoud, says his cow yields a daily average of 14 litres of milk from which his family makes and markets certain dairy products such as yogurt, clarified butter and thickened yogurt. Another beneficiary notes that because his cow gave birth to a calf, he could not use it towards paying back the loan. "We sold the calf and used the money to expand and improve our house," he says.

The NHF Quality of Life Project, which is planning on introducing a goat-raising scheme in the village, provides beneficiaries

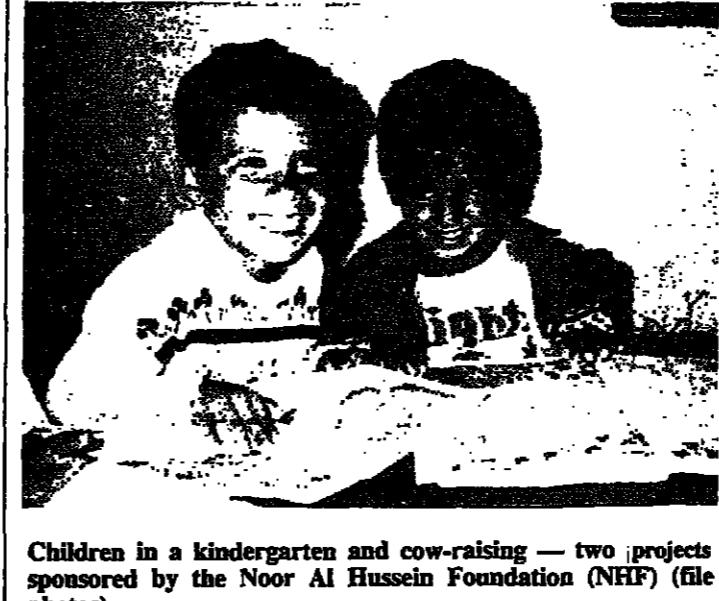
other 11 communities in Jordan

seems to be intended to serve mainly as a catalyst for change. "We have gone a long way in educating, training, and organising the local population, and now it's their turn to assume responsibility for their own development," says Mr. Zawawi. The head of Gneih Village Council, Ali Ziyoud, says further efforts are needed to change people's conceptions of loans as charity, of voluntary community work as "none of their business" and of unconventional income-generating schemes as not cost-effective.

The project was first initiated in Jordan by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in 1989 in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health. Its primary objective is to introduce a dynamic innovative development programme that would improve the total quality of life for underprivileged individuals and communities throughout Jordan.

By the end of 1992, over 10,000 persons benefited directly and indirectly from the project in eight communities throughout Jordan. Four more communities have been encompassed by the project's service this year.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation hopes to introduce the Quality of Life Project as a national model for socio-economic development in Jordan. It is already recognised by WHO as a regional training model. In addition to its WHO funding, the project has received donations from the U.S.-based Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Spanish "World in Harmony" and the government of Luxembourg, in addition to private Jordanian contributions.



Children in a kindergarten and cow-raising — two projects sponsored by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) (file photos)



VACANCY FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN UNDER A REGIONAL U.N. PROJECT ON "STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN"

Closing date: 25 August 1993

National Project Director

Amman-Jordan

Duration: 1 Year Fixed Term Initially

October 1993

Duties & Responsibilities:

Under the general supervision of the regional chief technical adviser, the national project director will, in accordance with the established procedures, assume the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Undertake planning, directing and organising activities relative to the achievement of the project's objectives on the basis of the project proposal, findings of the baseline research, strategic planning recommendations.
2. Translate into specific plans and work programmes the project's operational framework.
3. Assist in identifying/recruiting the core staff of the project as well as National Consultants/Resource Persons.
4. Prepare and organise the project's annual strategic planning workshops.
5. Prepare and organise the project's training programme on entrepreneurship including the study tour.
6. Coordinate the various activity components of the project and ensure complementarity of efforts between and among collaborating agencies.
7. Negotiate terms of agreement with various universities and qualified institutions for the implementation of the project's baseline research.
8. Oversee the organisation/implementation of various training and information/business advisory activity components of the project.
9. Oversee the preparation of information/training materials to be developed/produced by the project.
10. Negotiate agreements with national financial/banking institutions regarding the opening of loan windows for women.
11. Contribute to the identification/formulation of strategic approaches that will ensure sustainability of project's goals.
12. Establish quarterly work plans and produce progress reports.
13. Monitor and evaluate impact of project activities on the target group and on participating/support institutions.
14. Produce technical reports documenting project results and experience.
15. Prepare annual and final reports on project activities and results to be submitted to the evaluation mission.
16. Perform other duties as required.

Qualifications & Experience:

★ Advanced university degree in social sciences or a relevant discipline, knowledge of international development initiatives and experience in gender and development issues.

★ Knowledge of local women NGOs, programmes, initiatives and networks.

★ 8-12 years of previous experience in development related field(s) and the private sector (business entrepreneurship management).

★ Full working knowledge of English and Arabic is required. Knowledge of French is an asset.

★ Initiative and sound judgment. Ability to work in harmony and liaise with different local agencies.

Interested candidates should submit detailed CV to P.O. Box 35286 not later than Aug. 25, 1993.

Growing protectionism draws Arab Gulf states to GATT

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Growing world protectionism and the emergence of giant economic blocs are forcing wealthy Arab Gulf states to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), officials and economists said Tuesday.

Kuwait is the only Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) state to join the Geneva-based group, becoming a member in 1984, but Saudi Arabia applied last month and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is considering following suit.

Officials from the three countries and the remaining GCC members — Bahrain, Oman and Qatar — will listen to the benefits offered by GATT when its experts highlight its activities at a seminar to be held in Abu Dhabi soon.

"We have asked GATT to organise this seminar to identify its objectives and how we can get a membership," UAE economy and trade ministry acting under-secretary, Mohammad Al Mezaike, told the local daily *Al Khaleej*.

"The discussion will focus on the benefits we will get regarding world trade in case we join GATT. But we already know such a membership will provide us with the opportunity to participate in international trade negotiations and present our views to serve our interests," he said.

The GCC's growing interest in GATT comes amidst complaints about increasing protectionism in major world economic groups at a time when the six members argue they impose only token customs tariffs on imports.

The Gulf states' main dispute is with their top economic partner, the European Community (EC), which they accuse of blocking access to their petrochemicals and of seeking similar measures against their vital crude exports through the proposed carbon tax.

The tax would levy \$3 on an imported barrel of oil and it would rise gradually to \$10 by the year 2000. GCC states and other producers have attacked the tax on the grounds it would hit demand for oil and depress their earnings, already sharply down because of weak oil prices.

The proposed tax has cast a shadow over their strong relations and could hamper progress in their petrochemical negotiations, which they started more than five years ago, GCC states are demanding free access to the EC market but the Europeans fear this could hurt their petrochemical industry.

"In the light of the new world

order and the growing trend for protectionism and regional economic alliances, Gulf states should get closer together and join GATT as a forum for settling trade disputes," said Yusuf Khalifa Al Yusuf, economics professor at the Emirates University.

Trade accounts for nearly two thirds of the GCC's Gross Domestic Product, standing at around \$110 billion in 1992, when the GDP reached \$169.5 billion. Oil and gas form the bulk of that trade.

In a recent study, the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) urged the GCC and the other members of the Arab League to join GATT and work with the group's developing members to face protectionism and emerging economic giants.

"Arab states should work with other developing nations to ensure the success of the GATT round of negotiations so it will lead to multi-national trade order that enables the developing countries to exploit their industrial and export potentials," the Abu Dhabi-based fund said.

It said protectionism in a single EC market would depress Arab exports by 30 per cent and this would "create a new obstacle for economic reforms and development efforts in the region."

Australia budget to raise taxes and cut spending

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Treasurer John Dawkins revealed Tuesday that the budget for the year ending June 30, 1994, would include a double dose of bitter medicine — higher taxes and spending cuts.

"We have now got to the point where we should be tightening up on fiscal policy over the next few years," Mr. Dawkins said.

"It's in the context of what's been happening in Europe. I think we're likely to see in the years ahead more emphasis being given to fiscal policy," he said in a radio interview.

He reiterated that the government aimed to have the 1993/94 budget deficit come in at around 16 billion Australian dollars (\$11 billion).

"There will be tax increases as

well as expenditure cuts in order to achieve those fiscal objectives," he added.

Mr. Dawkins would not comment on reports that the defence department faced major cuts.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported Tuesday that the treasury aimed to slash up to 200 million Australian dollars (\$137 million) from a defence budget of nearly 10 billion Australian dollars (\$6.4 billion).

"We have reviewed every portfolio and every portfolio has made a contribution to the fiscal task. Defence like every portfolio has been asked to undertake a review of its expenditure but beyond that I won't go," Mr. Dawkins said.

The Herald said defence cuts

would be phased in over several years but were a key plank in a major round of spending cutbacks.

Mr. Dawkins told Australian Broadcasting Corp the budget, to be presented to parliament on Aug. 17, would make a sober assessment of the Australian economy's prospects.

But he said private forecasts for gross domestic product to rise about two per cent in the year to next June were "a bit low."

Economic growth for the year to March was 2.5 per cent.

Australia's economy was likely to receive a boost from rising commodity prices following disarray in the European exchange rate mechanism, Mr. Dawkins said.

Indonesia seeks foreign investors

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, facing a drop in foreign investment as well as increased regional competition, said Tuesday it would begin campaigns in Asia and Europe next month to attract foreign support for its economy.

"We are going to campaign in Asia and Europe for trade, tourism and investment," Investment Minister Sanyoto Sastrowardoyo told reporters after meeting President Suharto.

He predicted that approved foreign investment would fall to

between \$6 and \$7 billion in calendar 1993, compared with \$10.3 billion in 1992.

Approved foreign investment between Jan. 1 and July 15 fell to \$4.8 billion from \$6.9 billion in the same 1992 period, Mr. Sanyoto said.

The decline of foreign investment is because of recession in the industrial countries... there is also competition in the (Asian) region from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India in

attracting investors," Mr. Sanyoto said.

He gave no details of next month's planned campaigns but he said: "We are still attractive to foreign investors. We plan more (economic) deregulation, including simplification of investment procedures," Mr. Sanyoto said.

He said Indonesia was looking at the possibility of the relocation of companies from Japan to developing countries because of the yen's strength.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



French, Germans seek unity after monetary breakup

PARIS (R) — French and German finance ministers met to try to patch up their differences Tuesday after weekend arm-wrestling led to the effective breakup of the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

The French stock market meanwhile showed its disappointment that the loosening of links among European currencies had not led France to cut interest rates immediately, giving up some of the gains it made Monday.

The Bundesbank shaved its key money market rate to 6.80 per cent Tuesday while France left short-term rates unchanged, helping the franc to rebound to 3,4950 against the mark at 1050 GMT after falling as far as 3,5305 Monday.

"Look at what everyone said yesterday — monetary stability is the priority. If that is the case, clearly there is not much room for sharp rate reductions," he added.

The German finance and economics ministers, Theo Waigel and Guenther Rexrodt, and Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger arrived to a salvo of abuse from French editorialists, who blamed Germany for the collapse of European monetary stability.

Alphandery, greeting Mr. Schlesinger, at the start of the regular economic talks, told reporters that Franco-German relations remained "excellent."

But Bank of France Governor Jacques de Larosiere stayed into the finance ministry in gloomy silence.

Ministers stuck publicly to Mr. Balladur's line that France had not devalued and would still pursue monetary stability.

But political sources said at least one cabinet member, Small-Business Minister Alain Madelin, who called last December for the franc to the floated, was pressing for sharp interest rate cuts to help pull the economy out of recession.

French voters care more about record unemployment than about the franc's stability, advocates of easy money argue.

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Le Figaro, the newspaper closest to Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, accused Bonn of causing the crisis in the European monetary system by imposing high interest rates on everyone to meet the astronomical cost of German unification.

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the franc, which has lost about two per cent against the mark, by compromising hopes of an economic recovery.

Influential U.S. fund manager George Soros told *Le Figaro* newspaper that lower interest rates would boost confidence in the franc. But if France continued with its "dogmatic" insistence on monetary stability, the franc would keep falling.

"If the government carries on giving priority to monetary stability, it will continue to fall," he said.

A former top finance ministry official said: "The Bank of France has to replenish its reserves, which must have been sorely depleted in defending the franc last week, before it will cut rates. But I'm sure you will see France cutting rates soon. Otherwise what purpose has all this served?"

The defeat of the ERM by

speculators marks a low point in Franco-German ties, already strained by differences over the GATT world trade talks and Western policy in former Yugoslavia.

The loosening of the bands linking most European Community currencies caused relief in Bonn but dejection in Paris.

The German media was delighted that Germany had prevailed and would no longer be obliged to spend billions of marks to defend weaker ERM currencies.

Happiest by far was the mass circulation *Bild* newspaper, which has waged a war of words against plans in the Maastricht treaty for a single European currency.

"Euro-money is stone dead — burra, the mark is still there," *Bild* screamed in a front-page headline.

Fund managers steal show from banks in ERM crisis

LONDON (R) — The enduring image from this summer's foreign exchange mayhem may not turn out to be frenzied traders screaming down telephone lines.

Rather, it could become the suited executives in charge of institutional funds.

"It's becoming much more widely known, or accepted, that it's not the bank dealers who are in pole position in terms of being speculators," said David Clark, president of the Association Cambiste Internationale (ACI), the foreign exchange trade group.

The focus of attention, he says, is on the fund managers and there are several reasons why.

"Banks operate within very strict internal limits and they work within very strict central

bank limits," said Mr. Clark, who heads the Paris-based ACI. "This is not the case of fund managers."

Institutional funds still account for a fraction of the flows in the spot currency market, but the share is growing.

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in its latest report estimated daily spot market turnover of some \$880 billion, with the bulk of this coming from banks.

"The evidence seems to suggest, however, that transactions with other market participants have expanded more rapidly than those between dealers," the BIS said.

Cash movers like George Soros, president of Soros Fund

Management, have transfixed the markets and the media. Banks, on the other hand, have been taking a low profile.

They were burned last year by bad publicity from the autumn European currency crisis that first rocked the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) and paved the way for the currency grid's revocation Monday.

The market has been conscious of its image since last September," Mr. Clarke said.

Many banks would not talk about ERM-based trading, with traders citing the upturn after sterling's exit from the ERM.

The evening of the pullout, on Sept. 16, 1992, one bank dealer boasted in a television interview of the money made on the pound.

The image of the smiling foreign exchange dealer cashing in at the expense of the taxpayer became a symbol of the event.

So this time banks shunned the chance to talk about whatever they may have made from their own positions, which are taken by so-called proprietary trading desks.

That is not to say they did not make money in other ways.

"Banks do well when there is heavy trading activity," said Patrick Foley, chief economic adviser at Lloyds Bank here. "Generally they don't take big open positions themselves, but obviously they do well through the commissions they earn."

European Community finance

Motown acquisition rockets Polygram to top music slot

AMSTERDAM (R) — Music company Polygram N.V. Tuesday said it was buying Motown Records, the biggest name in American black pop music, in a deal which could boost the Dutch firm into the number one slot in the music industry.

The \$301 million acquisition — which Polygram will effectively pay for by issuing 10 million new shares — will give the enlarged group control of recordings by classic black artists like Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder and the late Marvin Gaye.

Motown, which had 1992 sales of \$134 million, is currently owned by U.S. private investment partnership Boston U.S. Philips Drew in London. "These titles are more or less classics."

No official figures are available but analysts estimate the top three music companies Time Warner Inc., Thorn EMI and Polygram each already held an 18 per cent global market share.

Polygram declined to comment on its profitability.

"I think this certainly makes Polygram, world number one," said Machiel Bakker of Music Media, the European subsidiary of U.S. trade magazine Billboard.

Come Zandbergen of Bank

Motown deal would boost Poly-

gram's market share to about 19 per cent in an already concentrated sector.

As well as giving Polygram a key stake in black music, Motown sets a mass-market foundation for new sound and multimedia carriers being launched by Philips Electronics N.V., which holds a majority stake in Polygram.

The popular appeal of Motown may help Philips new Digital Compact Cassette (DCC) in its fight against Sony of Japan's rival Minidisc — a recordable compact disc.

DCC is a new tape product Philips is targeting at the mass market, giving digital quality sound on players which are also compatible with old-style analog cassettes.

Besides its classic sixties hits, Motown is developing new talent mainly in soul with artists like Boyz II Men, Another Bad Creation and Shanice, Mr. Bakker said.

Los Angeles-based Motown

was founded in Detroit in 1959 by legendary record producer Berry Gordy and brought hits like Smokey Robinson's "Tears of a Clown," and Marvin Gaye's "Hear It Through the Grapevine" to mass white audiences in the 1960s.

Polygram's deal with Motown is the latest in a series of acquisitions by the Dutch company.

It follows the company's purchase of the Dutch record label

of the British record label

and the acquisition of the

French record label

10 killed, 30 injured in Cambodia train ambush

PHNOM PENH (R) — Attackers laid mines on a railway track in Cambodia and raked a train with gunfire and rockets, killing at least 10 people and injuring 30. The United Nations peacekeepers' spokesman said Tuesday.

The ambush, Monday afternoon, took place about 20 kilometres east of the provincial town of Kampot in the south of the country, he said.

The gunmen were unidentified but the area, dubbed the "violent triangle," is known as a sanctuary for Khmer Rouge guerrillas who have attacked trains in the region before.

The attackers first laid mines on the track of the Phnom Penh-bound train, then raked the carriages with small arms fire and shoulder-launched rockets, spokesman Eric Falt said.

Units from the U.N.'s French paratroop battalion based in Kampot province reached the ambush scene about 15 minutes after the attack. Soldiers wearing the U.N. peacekeepers' distinctive blue berets set up a first aid post and ferried the seriously injured to the provincial hospital at Kampot.

The antiquated railway system, winding through desolate countryside much of which was until recently a vast battlefield in Cambodia's 13-year civil war, is an easy target for guerrillas.

The militant Khmer Rouge, whose leaders abandoned an international peace process they had agreed to in Paris in 1991, have been left out of the coalition government that resulted from U.N.-organized elections in May.

Since then they have been active in attacking Cambodia's crumbling infrastructure, according to U.N. spokeswoman Susan Manuel. She said last week that road and rail bridges were being destroyed at the rate of one every two days.

On July 25, gunmen believed to belong to the radical Maoist group attacked the same Phnom Penh-bound train about 40 kilometres north-east of Kampot, injuring several passengers.

The insurgents are held responsible for derailing a train in the same vicinity in May, just before the elections.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas have been active in their attempts to destroy sections of Cambodia's north-west line to Sisophon. More than 30 metres of track were blown up last Tuesday between Sisophon, near the Thai border, and the north's most important city Battambang.

Cambodia has only two rail lines, one to the southern port of Sihanoukville and a second stretching out of Sisophon in the north-west of the country.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said Tuesday it was sticking by its report that the Thai military had allowed the Khmer Rouge to attack and detain U.N. peacekeepers from its territory.

The assertion came as Thai military officials in Bangkok came up against the UNTAC version, claiming that rather than standing around videotaping the event — as U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said — the Thai soldiers tried to help the U.N. troops on Cambodian soil.

"We'll respond to that (denial) in a couple of days," he said, adding that UNTAC was compiling proof of the incident before making any more public statements.

The 21 peacekeepers detained Sunday by the Khmer Rouge and released to the Thai military at a camp 40 kilometres inside Thailand were flown back to the northern Cambodian province of Preah Vihear Tuesday, Mr. Falt said.

"There has been good cooperation with the Thai authorities in bringing them back," Mr. Falt said.

According to the UNTAC version, the attack on the U.N. border position started when a group of some 50 Khmer Rouge guerrillas who were attacking an adjacent government position turned their guns on the peacekeepers.

During a lull in the fighting three U.N. military observers, from China, France and Britain, along with a Cambodian interpreter, drove across the border to escape into Thailand, Mr. Falt said.

They were stopped by a group of Khmer Rouge guerrillas who told them the peacekeepers must leave.

The U.N. military observers along with 16 Pakistani soldiers, the interpreter and an Australian signalman then drove back into Thailand but only got 200 metres when guerrillas blocked their passage with a landmine.

The Khmer Rouge "then began an attack ... from both the Thai and Cambodian sides of the border."

Japan coalition leaders play down differences

TOKYO (R) — Tsutomu Hata, widely tipped to become Japan's next deputy premier, said Tuesday he was confident the eight-party coalition poised to take power this week would overcome its policy differences.

Leaders of new centre-right parties joined forces with the Socialists and other opposition groups last week to bring an end to almost 40 years of continuous rule by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Critics have pointed out, however, that the eight parties remain far apart on key issues, spelling trouble for the fragile union.

"Once the new government is launched there could be debate over issues where we differ, like defence and the taxation system, but for now I see no one topic likely to cause problems," said Mr. Hata, head of the LDP-breakaway Japan Renewal Party that forms the core of the opposition coalition.

"In the areas of security, foreign affairs and defence, we have decided to maintain the fundamental policies of the previous government," he told a news conference.

The stage for political change was set after the LDP, its leaders implicated in a rash of huge corruption scandals, failed to win a majority in the 511-seat lower house in the July 18 general election. Although it won the

largest bloc — 223 members — it fell short of the 256-seat majority.

Ichiro Ozawa, co-founder with Mr. Hata of the Japan Renewal Party, moved in to mastermind the creation of the 265-strong coalition, which will take over from the LDP when parliament meets Thursday.

He and the popular Hata, who had been considered the most likely candidate to lead the alliance, chose anti-corruption campaigner Morihiro Hosokawa as head of the centrist Japan New Party, as their candidate for coalition leader and prime minister.

Senior officials of the eight coalition parties decided Tuesday that the first order of business in parliament on Thursday would be to approve Mr. Hosokawa as prime minister and select Takao Doi, former Socialist chairman, as speaker of the lower house.

A cabinet line-up was expected to be announced Friday.

Mr. Hata, who is expected to be appointed finance minister for a second time, denied reports that Mr. Hosokawa was little more than a puppet to be manipulated by Mr. Ozawa.

"If we thought of him as a puppet then the government would fall right away and we'd go back to square one, with power reverting back to the LDP," he said.

"Mr. Hosokawa alone began fighting the political system when he launched his new party last

year ... a move that led to the breakup of the system," Mr. Hata said. "He is the best and most appropriate figure to head this coalition."

Mr. Hata and Mr. Ozawa, both of whom had been groomed for the LDP leadership, rebelled against Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in June and left the ruling party to form their own group.

Mr. Hata said the coalition government's main task was to introduce radical political reform laws to stamp out corruption and encourage democratic development.

Multi-seat electoral districts should be replaced by single-seat constituencies to cut down on graft, he said.

Under the current system, LDP politicians compete against one another in the same district and spend lavishly on campaigns, a development that has fueled the need for political funds in excess of legal limits.

Mr. Hata also said the new government should once and for all issue a clear-cut apology to Asian countries for Japan's misdeeds up to and during World War II.

"We are embarking on a new era of government five decades after the war and I think it appropriate that we should clear up the question of our war responsibility."

Two volunteers Tuesday lift the body of a woman killed in one of the blasts inside a Hindu temple complex in Colombo (AFP photo)

Sri Lanka Tamil temple blasts kill 6



Two volunteers Tuesday lift the body of a woman killed in one of the blasts inside a Hindu temple complex in Colombo (AFP photo)

saw a cloud of smoke," he said. "When I went there, I saw several people lying on the ground.

Nearby trees were pockmarked with shrapnel.

Devotees, all from the minority Tamil community, had gathered on the last day of the annual Vel Festival in which statues of Hindu gods are taken in procession across Colombo in a brightly decorated cart.

The festival began Saturday amid tight police security.

Two volunteers Tuesday lift the body of a woman killed in one of the blasts inside a Hindu temple complex in Colombo (AFP photo)

a parcel she picked up, the police officer said.

He said investigations were continuing and would not say what would happen to the man who allegedly hired the bomber.

A witness who lost his wife in the second explosion told Reuter photographer Anuradha Lokuhettewa that it occurred near a group of people drinking tea.

"My wife went to have a cup of tea and then I heard the blast and

Paper explains delayed flights: Blame the tower

PEKING (AP) — Flight delayed leaving Peking? It's become the rule rather than the exception over the past year, and Tuesday's China Daily newspaper finally offered an explanation: an outdated traffic control system. The paper said Peking's traffic control system has not been changed since the 1950s, when at most a few planes took off and landed each day. More than 200 planes took off and landed each day last year at the capital international airport, and the number is expected to climb 53 per cent this year, the newspaper said. It said the traffic controllers still offer only one route in each direction, with only two flying altitudes on each route. Takeoffs must be separated by at least 10 minutes. In addition, only 11 per cent of the air space around Peking is open to civilian flights because of security concerns, the paper said. Air traffic control isn't the only aspect of Chinese aviation that is being badly strained by the rapid growth of air traffic over the past two years. Overall, domestic passenger traffic jumped 33 per cent last year and was up 24 per cent in the first half of this year compared with the same period of 1992. Pilots, crews, maintenance personnel and refueling systems are all in short supply, according to official news reports.

Explorers find 4 ancient Mayan towns

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ruins of four towns built by the Mayans have been found in a tropical rain forest in Belize in Central America and at least two appear to have been untouched by looters since they were abandoned more than 1,000 years ago. Peter S. Dunham, a Cleveland State University archeologist, said the Mayan centres were found during a survey expedition in the mountainous rain forest along the Monkey River in Belize, an area previously believed to have been untouched by looters since they were abandoned more than 1,000 years ago.

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As the death toll from three days of fighting in black townships east of here climbed to at least 119, Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel told state-run television late Monday that the government would agree to a joint force.

His only proviso was that the formation and deployment of the force should be well planned.

The African National Congress (ANC) has proposed a joint force composed not only of the existing state police and security forces, but also of members of the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK) and other armed formations.

Mr. Kriel's spokesman Captain Craig Kotze told AFP Tuesday the force would have to be "as inclusive as possible," pointing out that if MK cadres were involved, the right wing should also be enlisted, to avoid accusations of political bias.

But he doubted the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) could take part.

"They have an armed struggle which runs contrary to the aims of the peace force," he said.

Mr. Kotze said it was now up to negotiators at multi-party democratic talks to work out how to implement the proposals.

The ANC demanded the sacking of "incompetent" South African law and order minister Tuesdays.

Meanwhile, proposals that a hybrid security force under multi-party control should be deployed as soon as possible in South Africa's township battlefields have been accepted by the white

community.

But Ingush leader Ruslan Avashhev suggested that Ossetians opposed to the resettlement of Ingush refugees planned Sunday's murders. Mr. Polyanichko had been trying to find housing for tens of thousands of Ingush refugees.

Russian newspapers also suggested that Armenian, Azerbaijani or Afghan militants may have killed Mr. Polyanichko for revenge.

Before the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, the governor was the second highest Communist Party official in Azerbaijan and had tried to stifle Armenian separatists in the mountainous enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Polyanichko also was the Kremlin's representative in Azerbaijan in January 1990, when Soviet troops quelled pro-democracy protests in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, killing more than 100 people.

Mr. Polyanichko had served as the Soviet adviser to Najibullah, the former Communist Party leader in Afghanistan, during the Soviet occupation of that country.

The newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda said three attempts were made on Mr. Polyanichko's life in Nagorno-Karabakh in 1990-91, and that Armenian extremists had "sentenced him to death" in absentia.

The Moscow News reported last month that Mr. Polyanichko had been "hunted" by militants in Afghanistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The new drug under the brand name Felbatol.

3 killed in Kashmir protest

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Three people were shot dead and four injured here Tuesday as Indian troops opened fire on Kashmiri Muslims enraged by the killing of a boy and his parents by the security forces, police said.

About 7,000 people defied a city-wide curfew Tuesday and took to the streets of Srinagar to denounce the killing of 10-year-old Bilal Ahmad and his parents by members of the Border Security Force (BSF) Sunday, witnesses said.

Police said three people were killed and five injured when para-military troops opened fire on a slogan-shouting crowd of about 1,000 people in the downtown Khanyar district, where Sunday's killings took place.

Officials said troops used batons and teargas and fired into the air to break up anti-Indian demonstrations in other areas of the city.

Demonstrators ignored repeated demands to return to their homes and milled around in the streets shouting "we want freedom," "tyrants, killers leave our Kashmir" and other pro-independence slogans.

Army and paramilitary reinforcements were rushed to Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, to try to enforce the indefinite curfew.

Sunday's killing of the family sparked mass protests in the Kashmir Valley leading to the curfew under which has been largely ignored across the state.

The IFP, Mr. Buthelezi's Kwa-Zulu government and their COSAG partner, the far-right

Conservative Party (CP), walked out of the talks on July 2 after democracy negotiators swept aside their protests to confirm April 27 as the date for the country's first non-racial election.

The IFP wants guarantees on federalism, the CP wants an African homeland, and both insist an election date cannot be set until South Africa's future form of state is decided.

A demarcation committee Monday recommended to the 23 parties remaining at democracy negotiations that the country's inner borders be redrawn to create nine regions instead of the present 13.

The committee rejected the idea of a separate white homeland, but Mr. Buthelezi's Kwa-Zulu homeland and surrounding white-ruled Natal retain their borders.

A government spokesman said Tuesday that Pretoria was holding bilateral meetings with IFP officials to try and entice them back to the talks.

"We are looking at sufficient consensus and the election date, but there are no definite indications that they are going back next," he said, adding that the next meeting would be held on Thursday.

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community.

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The new drug under the brand name Felbatol.

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov called Tuesday for a new government of "national accord" and served notice that parliament would renew its drive for greater control over the executive branch.

Addressing local lawmakers and officials in the central city of Oryol 300 kilometres south of Moscow, Mr. Khasbulatov warned the legislature plans "to reinforce its constitutional control on the activities of the executive."

The speaker, who arrived in Oryol a day ahead of a planned visit there by President Boris Yeltsin to commemorate the Soviet World War II victory at Kursk, said current top state officials were governing the country with "disdain."

"Few who took part in the battle back then could have imagined that the very notion of fidelity to the Fatherland would someday be an object of mockery," Mr. Khasbulatov said, according to Interfax News Agency.

Sports

Chang scores easy win

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Third-seeded Michael Chang of the United States used his steady groundstrokes to defeat countryman Jonathan Stark 6-2 6-3 in an 81-minute first-round match at the \$300,000 Volvo Tennis/Los Angeles hardcourt Tournament Monday.

Top seed and recently crowned Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras of the United States and second-seeded Michael Stich of Germany did not see first-round action on day one of the 32-player event, which serves as a warmup for the U.S. Open.

Unseeded American Alex O'Brien shook off ten aces and upset seventh-seeded Mark Woodforde of Australia 7-6 (7-3) 4-6 6-2, in a two-hour, 29-minute first-round match.

Chuck Adams of the United States defeated Christo Van Rensburg of South Africa 6-4 6-4 and Michael Joyce of the United States beat Ronald Agenor of Haiti 6-1 6-3 in other first-round matches.

Chang, 9th in the world, controlled the 56th-ranked Stark's service games by hitting returns at his opponent's feet and repeatedly kept Stark pinned to the baseline.

Chang also served and volleyed at will an uncharacteristic tactic of the counter-punching Chang, and Stark was unable to offer any defence against Chang's attacking game.

Chang, who has played well here in the past, said that he hoped to play aggressively throughout the tournament in an effort to compete better on faster surfaces.

"People don't realize that my game is well suited for hard courts, but I think I can play as well as anyone on fast surfaces. I have beaten some of the best players on hard courts and I'm hoping that by staying aggressive, every match, it will pay off when it gets tight in a big match," Chang said.

Sawamatsu easily beats Rinaldi

In Carlsbad, California, ninth-seeded Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan easily swept past American Kathy Rinaldi 6-3 6-1, highlighting opening-round play at the \$375,000 Mazda Classic women's tennis tournament Monday.

Critics wondered aloud whether Lentini had the right attitude and much was made of the time he was believed to be spending commuting to see friends and family in Turin.

His mixed performances saw him lose his regular place in the Italian national side but the tall, powerful Lentini had been seen as capable of filling the gap left by the departure of Dutchman Ruud Gullit from Milan.

"Lentini is similar to Gullit in style. He is capable of exceptional things," Milan captain Franco Baresi said recently.

The winger is the second member of the Italian national squad injured in a car crash in recent months.

Sampdoria goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca missed the end of last season after breaking his collarbone in an accident in his Porsche in May.

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A K Q
♦ 10 8 7 6 2
♦ 8 5 4
♦ 9 3

WEST
♦ J K Q J
♦ 7 5 4
J 2
♦ Q 7 2

EAST
♦ 10 7 6 4
♦ 8 5 4
♦ 9 3
♦ A K 10 9 7 6 3
♦ A K

SOUTH
♦ 9 3
♦ 9 2
♦ 9 1
♦ A K 10 9 7 6 3
♦ A K

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 5 : Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

There are rankings for those who watch a bridge game: The Kibitzer, who is allowed to sit next to the table and, at the conclusion of a hand, may enter into the post-mortem with the players; the Dorbitzer, who sits behind the Kibitzer, but is barred from speaking to the players and can discuss the hand only with the Kibitzer; and the Tsitzer, who sits wherever there's a place available, but cannot pass any comment, except for saying "ts, ts" whenever

he thinks an error has been committed.

Every once in a while a Kibitzer will lose his cool and pass a remark before the play has been completed, affecting the result. Such was the case when this hand was played at the once-renowned Cavendish Club of New York. South had reached a contract of five diamonds via the direct route and West had started the defense by cashing the king and ace of hearts.

They are Brazilian substitute

Zetti, who plays for world champion São Paulo, and Bolivia's Miguel Angel Rimba Alvis, a FIFA statement said.

Drug tests in Madrid uncovered traces of cocaine in both players, FIFA said, adding that initial positive results were confirmed by a second test.

The initial tests were performed after Bolivia beat Brazil 2-0 in a South American Group B World Cup qualifying match.

Rimba, however, denied ever using cocaine and said he only drank a tea that includes coca leaf, the main ingredient used to make cocaine.

Coca tea is legally consumed throughout Bolivia. It is served at social functions and even at the United States embassy residency in La Paz to help ward off altitude sickness.

"I'm willing to submit myself to new tests to clear up this matter," Rimba said in La Paz.

FIFA suspends 2 players for cocaine use

ZURICH (AP) — Two soccer players, a Brazilian and a Bolivian, were suspended after testing positive for cocaine use following a July 25 World Cup qualifying game. FIFA, the sport's world governing body, said Monday.

Their names are not yet known.

Sampdoria goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca missed the end of last season after breaking his collarbone in an accident in his Porsche in May.

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A K Q
♦ 10 8 7 6 2
♦ 8 5 4
♦ 9 3

WEST
♦ J K Q J
♦ 7 5 4
J 2
♦ Q 7 2

EAST
♦ 10 7 6 4
♦ 8 5 4
♦ 9 3
♦ A K 10 9 7 6 3
♦ A K

SOUTH
♦ 9 3
♦ 9 2
♦ 9 1
♦ A K 10 9 7 6 3
♦ A K

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 5 : Pass

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Their names are not yet known.

Sampdoria goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca missed the end of last season after breaking his collarbone in an accident in his Porsche in May.

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A K Q
♦ 10 8 7 6 2
♦ 8 5 4
♦ 9 3

WEST
♦ J K Q J
♦ 7 5 4
J 2
♦ Q 7 2

EAST
♦ 10 7 6 4
♦ 8 5 4
♦ 9 3
♦ A K 10 9 7 6 3
♦ A K

SOUTH
♦ 9 3
♦ 9 2
♦ 9 1
♦ A K 10 9 7 6 3
♦ A K

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 5 : Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

There are rankings for those who watch a bridge game: The Kibitzer, who is allowed to sit next to the table and, at the conclusion of a hand, may enter into the post-mortem with the players; the Dorbitzer, who sits behind the Kibitzer, but is barred from speaking to the players and can discuss the hand only with the Kibitzer; and the Tsitzer, who sits wherever there's a place available, but cannot pass any comment, except for saying "ts, ts" whenever

he thinks an error has been committed.

Every once in a while a Kibitzer will lose his cool and pass a remark before the play has been completed, affecting the result. Such was the case when this hand was played at the once-renowned Cavendish Club of New York. South had reached a contract of five diamonds via the direct route and West had started the defense by cashing the king and ace of hearts.

They are Brazilian substitute

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel cancels India music tour in 'Jerusalem' row

NEW DELHI (R) — A leading Israeli orchestra has called off its tour to India after New Delhi asked the group to drop the word "Jerusalem" from its name, Israeli officials said Tuesday. They said the Jerusalem symphony orchestra decided to cancel the visit, billed as Israel's first major cultural export to India, after the group's board of directors rejected New Delhi's request. "The board obviously decided that it would be insulting to accede to India's suggestion on Jerusalem," an Israeli official told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Taiwan plans talks with China in mid-August

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan is to hold talks with China later this month on the repatriation of thousands of illegal Chinese immigrants, a government spokesman said Tuesday. The talks will be the first formal negotiations between the two sides since they agreed at a high-level meeting in Singapore in April to create a system of regular contacts. Shu Hwei-Yow, deputy secretary-general of the Straits Exchange Foundation which handles Taiwan's links with China, will hold talks with his Chinese counterparts in China in mid-August, said Yeh China-Feng, vice-chairman of the cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council.

Demjanjuk has no right to return — U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Justice Department said Monday that John Demjanjuk, who was stripped of his U.S. citizenship, has no right to return to the United States while he appeals his 1986 extradition to Israel. The United States denaturalised Demjanjuk in 1981 in part for his service at the SS training camp in Travniki, and for lying about his wartime activities on applications to enter the United States and in later sworn testimony. The Israeli supreme court last week overturned the 73-year-old retired automaker's 1988 conviction and death sentence, saying there was insufficient evidence that he was a guard at the Nazi camp in Treblinka. Demjanjuk, formerly an Ohio resident, appealed to a federal court, accusing the Justice Department of withholding information that could have helped his defence in the Israeli trial. He asked to return to the United States pending conclusion of his appeal, scheduled to be argued Sept. 5.

Israel wants Croatia to apologise

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel will not open diplomatic relations with Zagreb until Croatia offers an apology for the persecution of Jews during World War II, a foreign ministry spokesman said Tuesday. "We will not establish diplomatic relations with Zagreb until (Croatian President Franjo) Tudjman apologises for his people's attitude towards the Jews in World War II," spokesman Eyyavatar Manor said. Mr. Tudjman, who has reportedly described the Israeli-supported figure of six million Jews killed in the holocaust as exaggerated, would have to withdraw comments judged as anti-Semitic in Israel contained in his book, "Wilderness of Historic Reality," Manor added. Israel recognised Croatia in 1992 but has not opened consular or diplomatic relations.

Algeria battles locust invasion

ALGIERS (R) — Thirty teams of experts are fanning out in southern Algeria to fight swarms of locusts now eating their way across neighbouring Mali and Niger and are expected in Algeria next month. Nomads have already reported the presence of huge locust swarms in the north of the two neighbouring countries, the Algerian daily *Al Watan* said Tuesday. "The situation in Algeria calls for grave concern because the locusts have started to reach the region from the shores of the Red Sea. Considerable swarms are expected to arrive by September," state television added. Agriculture Minister Elyes Mesi said on radio that 700,000 litres of pesticides had been sent to the area and a total of two million litres were available. Small aircraft and helicopters would be used to fight the expected invasion.

Rafsanjani starts second term as president

TEHRAN (R) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani started his second four-year term in office Tuesday when Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei formally endorsed the result of June elections, Tehran Radio said. Mr. Rafsanjani, who won 10.6 million votes or 63 per cent of the total cast, has vowed to continue free-market reforms to transform Iran's centralised economy. The 58-year-old cleric is due to take the oath of office before Majlis (parliament) Wednesday and introduce his new cabinet to the assembly Sunday, according to newspaper reports.

Two blasts rock Pakistani city; 4 injured

LAHORE (AFP) — Two bomb explosions rocked this second largest Pakistani city Tuesday and first reports said at least four people were injured. A bomb ripped through the ground floor office of the Punjab Advocate General (PAG) in the Lahore high court premises and another explosion later hit the headquarters of paramilitary rangers, police said. At least four people were reported injured, one of them critically, in the first blast, which also wrecked two cars parked outside the buildings. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosions, the first to occur during the current campaign for general elections in October. The incidents coincided with a report in the mass circulation daily *Jang* which said the authorities had discovered a foreign-inspired plot to disrupt peace in the run-up to the polls.

IAEA inspectors en route to N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — A team of inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is on its way to North Korea for a week-long review of its nuclear facilities, a spokesman for the IAEA said Tuesday. The IAEA had been negotiating with North Korea for more than two weeks to resume inspections halted by Pyongyang in March when it abruptly announced it planned to withdraw from a key safeguard treaty. "A three-man team of inspectors got their visas in Beijing and will arrive in Pyongyang on Tuesday," David Kyd told Reuters in Vienna earlier in the day. "They will begin a week-long inspection on Wednesday." Asked if the inspection team would be given access to all of North Korea's nuclear sites, Mr. Kyd said it was hard to predict the extent of their activities. South Korea, meanwhile, said it would propose a round of North-South border talks on nuclear matters on Wednesday. "We have not fixed a date yet, it would be decided after closely watching Pyongyang's reaction to the visit by the IAEA team..." a unification ministry official said.

Indian opposition denounces poll delay

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's opposition parties Tuesday blasted Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan for putting off all elections until December, and suggested they would seek his impeachment by parliament. The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) called Mr. Seshan's shock order "surprising" and charged that it had been done to save the ruling Congress (I) Party from facing crucial elections in four states in November. "The postponement (of elections) beyond November appears to have been done in collusion with the government," said spokeswoman Sushma Swaraj of the Hindu-revivalist BJP.

FBI agents called back from Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents sent to Pakistan to search for a suspect in a fatal shooting outside Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters in January have returned home after running out of leads there. "The most important reason is we just don't have the volume of information that we had originally," FBI spokesman Frank Scafidi said. "It just doesn't warrant the cost of keeping people there. The case is not closed by any stretch of the imagination. If it requires an immediate FBI presence, we'll be on the next flight." The FBI sent agents to Pakistan on Feb. 26 to aid in the search for Mir Alim Kansi, who is wanted in the Jan. 25 shooting outside CIA headquarters in McLean, Virginia. Two people died and three others were wounded in the shooting.

NATO strike threat to Serbs 'very real'

Combined agency dispatches

BRUSSELS — The threat of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces was a vital step in the campaign for peace in Bosnia and the clearest warning yet that Serbs must stop strangling Sarajevo, a top U.S. official said Tuesday.

Reviewing the air attack threat which NATO issued after marathon talks that ended early on Tuesday in Brussels, U.S. Assistant State Secretary Stephen Oxman said Washington had got exactly what it wanted from its NATO allies.

He added that the threat to the Serbs was a real one.

"If they do not cease their efforts to strangle Sarajevo, NATO will be prepared to use air power," Mr. Oxman told reporters.

"We are very gratified that the NATO alliance has agreed to the (U.S. president's) proposal... I think it's very important for the peace process and the NATO alliance," Mr. Oxman said.

U.S. officials said the alliance's military wing was urgently working out plans to implement the threat if required. Ambassadors would meet next Monday to review the situation on the ground in Bosnia and assess their options.

The officials refused to be drawn on any details of how such an operation would work but noted that the Serbs would have to change their ways fast.

The White House said the NATO decision to go along with the U.S. proposal tells Serbian aggressors that "the clock is ticking."

President Bill Clinton expressed confidence Monday that the allies would not permit the Bosnian capital "to fall or starve."

The Europeans had initially balked at supporting the U.S. plan.

Welcoming the decision, White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said that the NATO allies had "confirmed the U.S. view



Bosnian children perch on a car carcass at a U.N. base in Sarajevo, hoping to cadge something to eat from the soldiers (AFP photo)

that the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and particularly in Sarajevo, was unacceptable."

Mr. Myers noted that Mr. Clinton had written NATO heads of state on Friday "to express his view that the Serbs' effort to strangle the city of Sarajevo — through continued artillery attacks, military offensives and cut-offs of food, water and fuel — had reached a critical point, threatening a humanitarian disaster and undermining prospects for the negotiations" on ending the ethnic conflict.

Ms. Myers said the agreement does not impose a strict deadline on the Serbs. "I don't think there is a firm time line, but the clock is ticking," he said.

She called the endorsement "a good step forward."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher told his NATO counterparts Friday seeking their support for the U.S. threat of air power.

In Geneva, the Bosnian presidency Tuesday ordered their Muslim-led forces to halt all offensive actions in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said they would remain in peace negotiations

that the last supply route for defenders of Sarajevo, and its fall would further isolate the besieged Bosnian capital.

Barry Frewer, the U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, said that besides the shelling of a village between Bijeljina and Igman, "now that Serbs have taken that area (Bijeljina), it would appear that have stopped their offensives."

Delegates at the Geneva talks agreed Friday to a ceasefire and to a division of Bosnia-Herzegovina into three republics, a move regarded as a first step towards a partition of the country in order to end 16 months of ruthless warfare.

In Belgrade, Zoran Lalic, president of the run-Yugoslavia-Serbia and Montenegro — sent a letter to President Clinton expressing his concern that such action would put an end to any real chance of peace in Bosnia.

The threats, Mr. Lalic wrote, came "at a time when real progress was coming out of the Geneva talks.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic was also critical Tues-

day saying that "all these threats may ruin this conference which had been close to a solution."

"Those threats came in and the Muslims are reluctant because they have hopes for a military intervention," he said.

He warned that if the "Muslims use delaying tactics Sarajevo will suffer longer."

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin left for Paris, London and Geneva Tuesday, saying he and his Islamic colleagues would urge swift action on the NATO plans for air strikes to lift the Bosnian Serb siege of Sarajevo.

"If these (strikes) had taken place in August 1992, 200,000 lives could have been spared, so many people may not have been displaced and Bosnia-Herzegovina would not have gone down as a black mark in world history," Mr. Cetin told reporters.

He was to lead a delegation of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in talks with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and international peace mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Tunisia and Senegal, as well as OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid, accompanied him.

Malaysian peacekeeping troops will deploy in Bosnia only if there is adequate air cover and existing U.N. troops maintain their positions, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We do not want our troops to be slaughtered," Mr. Mahathir told a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to the Southeast Asian Sultanate of Brunei.

Mr. Mahathir said if U.N. troops were withdrawn from Bosnia leaving only Malaysia soldiers to face the Serbs, it would only "punish us for talking a lot."

"The U.N. must provide air cover, supply equipment and must not withdraw the existing U.N. peacekeeping troops. We will be there to help the U.N. save the Bosnians, not to attack or fight the Serbs," he said.

COLUMN 8

Diana yells at photographer

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana yelled at a photographer who snapped her and her sons leaving a movie theatre Monday after watching *Jurassic Park*, the freeloader said. Princess Diana left the prince, sprinted 10 metres to the photographer, Keith Butler and shouted "you make my life hell," Mr. Butler said. She then turned on her heel and rejoined Prince William and Harry outside the theatre in London's Leicester Square, he said. The princess' outburst follows a weekend newspaper guessing game about merchant banker William Van Straubenzee, an old friend who accompanied her to a weekend house party in Scotland. Mr. Van Straubenzee's family denied any romantic link, but newspaper carried photographs of Princess Diana playing tennis while Mr. Van Straubenzee watched from the sidelines at Floors Castle in Scotland. They referred to him pointedly as a "handsome bachelor." Princess Diana and Prince Charles are formally separated and conduct independent lives, appearing rarely together. They divide time with their sons. The freelance photographer, Mr. Butler, said he had followed the princess for 13 years. "I have had many a close encounter from time to time, some pleasant, some not so pleasant. I think it was about the frustrations of a weekend of being tormented by the press and all that has been written.... I think she had just had too much. It was time to explode."

Home alone mother gets 6 months

LONDON (AFP) — A 23-year-old British woman was sentenced to six months in jail Monday for leaving her two-year-old daughter home alone eight-hours-a-day, five-days-a-week for a year while she went to work. The young mother from the central town of Warwick initially hired a babysitter when she landed a job in a travel agency but eventually reached the point where she could no longer afford it, prosecutors said. The woman then started leaving the child home by herself, providing it with food, toys and removing all potentially dangerous objects from her reach. She would leave the television on during the night and other public forums.

Political parties are becoming increasingly frustrated with the delay of government action on the elections, with many accusing the Cabinet of "contaminating the people."

In a letter to Dr. Majali last week, the 15 political parties which called for passage of any changes to the law through Parliament, also urged the government to clarify its position on the elections.

Political observers believe the delay as well as the uncertainty about the law that would govern the elections are tying the hands of candidates who are not able to formulate or start their election campaigns.

The government, however, rejects these charges saying it is governing according to the Constitution.

Draft law reportedly ready for study

(Continued from page 1)

the Election Law would take place through a mechanism similar to the one through which the National Charter was adopted in 1991. Later statements have strongly indicated, however, that "a national dialogue" on possible changes to the Election Law has been taking place in the media and other public forums.

But political parties opposed to a unilateral government action on the law say they are not aware of any appropriate debate on the legislation, "unless," as one Brotherhood deputy put it, "one is taking place behind closed doors."

The government has said that the intense debate of the law in the press and among the country's intelligentsia is "part" of the dialogue that the King has called for, but various political groups insist that this

kind of debate is not enough.

A highly-informed political observer Tuesday contended that it had become clear that no national dialogue similar to the one launched when the National Charter was endorsed would be held to discuss possible changes to the Election Law.

"This has been ruled out," he said.

Upon return from Turkey Monday, King Hussein said that he would announce a decision on the elections "at the right time" and after studying the results of the dialogue that took place during his three-week visit to Europe.

The observer, who had occupied a senior post in the government, said he expected all political parties to participate in the election even if the law was changed.

"They will resist the change," he said. "But they will finally agree to contest the

Palestinians prefer confederation

(Continued from page 1)

the fact that Israel, Lebanon and Syria are able to work together on a problem and take a step to ensure that the peace process is not denied."

Mr. Rabin said Tuesday Israel was ready to make compromises and take risks in order to advance the peace process.

Mr. Rabin spoke to reporters after an 80-minute meeting with Mr. Christopher. The prime minister said they discussed various options in various directions, "towards reviving the stalled Arab-Israeli talks."

He said the Palestinians were ready to make compromises, take calculated risks to advance the cause of peace," Mr. Rabin said.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, a senior delegate, stayed away from the Palestinians' meeting with Mr. Christopher to protest Israel's attack on Lebanon as well as the lack of progress.

"This is the Lebanese war and the American attitude towards Israel makes a mockery of speaking about international law and human rights," Dr. Abdul Shafi said. "I am very disappointed."

Dr. Ashrawi said the Americans did not present any new proposals, but that Mr. Christopher asked the Palestinians to make suggestions on how to overcome the deadlock.

She said the Palestinians hoped to come up with detailed plans by Thursday, when the delegation is scheduled to meet Mr. Christopher again.

Asked whether UNIFIL would accept a joint deployment with the Lebanese army, the Norwegian officer said: "Certain military arrangements will be taken in this regard."

He met later with Gen. Lahoud but made no statement afterward.

Eighty villages were devastated by Israel's attacks, which killed 147 people and wounded nearly 500 in Lebanon. Guerrillas fired rockets into northern Israel, killing two Israelis and wounding 24.

As the tens of thousands of southerners returned to their

Jerusalem until all other issues were settled.

Under the initial framework of the talks, Israel and the Palestinians were to negotiate a formula for autonomy, and three years later talks on the final status would begin.

Mr. Christopher also met Mr. Peres ahead of two hours with the Palestinians, led by chief peace negotiator Faisal Husseini.

"We will be discussing ways to stimulate movement and get the peace negotiations back on track and refocus the parties on the core issues," the secretary said.

Mr. Peres said Israel was prepared to advance on one track if all parties were not ready to move together. But he urged the Palestinians not "to lose time and to come into the picture."

Beirut prepares army

(Continued from page 1)

ruined homes, many have blamed Hezbollah, as well as Israel, for last week's destruction.

Iran radio broadcast a denial Tuesday of reports that it had ordered Hezbollah to halt rocket attacks on Israel.